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JOINT COMMUNIQUE
on
Romanian Visit by General Jean Bedel Bokassa
President of the Central African Republic

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President of the Central African Republic

General Jean Bedel Bokassa, President of the Central African Republic, paid an official visit to Romania, over July 11-16, 1970, at the invitation of Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the State Council of Socialist Republic of Romania.

During their Romanian sojourn, the distinguished guests toured industrial and farming units as well as social and cultural establishments in Bucharest, Brașov and Pitești, and the Black Sea coast, learning with keen interest about the constructive activity and the achievements of the Romanian people. President Jean Bedel Bokassa and the members of the delegation were greeted everywhere with warmth and sympathy, an expression of the Romanian people's feelings of esteem and friendship towards the people of the Central African Republic.

State Council President Nicolae Ceaușescu had talks during this visit with General Jean Bedel Bokassa, President of the Central African Republic, participating in which were:

On the Romanian side:

Ion Gheorghe Maurer, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Manea Mănescu, Vice-President of the State Council, Corneliu Mănescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cornel Burtică, Minister of Foreign Trade, Bujor Almășan, Minister of Mining Industry and Geology, Ion Avram, Minister of Machine-Building Industry, Angelo Miculescu, Minister of Agriculture and Silviculture, Dan Enăchescu, Minister of Health, and Petru Burlacu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On the Centrafrican side:

Ange Patasse, Minister of State in charge of development, Nestor Kombot-Naguemon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Henri-Paul Boundio, Minister Delegate to the Presidency of the Republic, in charge of the Government's Secretariat, Bernard-Christian Ayandho, Minister of Mining Industry and Geology, Jean-Marie Wallot, Minister of Trade, Marie-Josephe Franck, Minister for Social Affairs, Albert Sato, Ambassador of the Central African Republic to the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolas Awoyamo, Assistant General Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Jacques Topande-Makombo, Director of the Europe-America Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

During the talks, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding, the two presidents informed each other on the activity and concerns of the two states on a domestic as well as international level, analysed the stage of their bilateral relations and exchanged views on international issues.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the relations between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Central African Republic have been developing continuously and that favourable conditions were at hand for the expansion and diversification of these relations in keeping with the interests of both countries and peoples. The two heads of state stressed the importance of the contacts in recent years and of the agreements concluded between Romania and the Central African Republic for a better acquaintance with the concerns and achievements of the two peoples and for the creation of favourable conditions for the development of bilateral cooperation.

They voiced the determination to make use of the existing possibilities in order to intensify economic and technical cooperation and trade exchanges to mutual advantage. With this aim in view, the two sides agreed - as part

of the implementation of the agreement on economic and technical cooperation and of the trade agreement, both documents signed in Bucharest on September 13, 1968, - that the Mixed Commission should meet next August at Bangui and established the concrete measures to be taken by both sides for carrying out cooperation in the following sectors: transport - railways included -, industry, geology and mining, forestry, agriculture, trade and tourism. They also agreed that a delegation of Romanian experts visit the Central African Republic next October to study on the spot, together with the Centrafrican experts the conditions and concrete possibilities for carrying out cooperation actions in the domains established by joint agreement.

The two sides declared themselves for the intensification of cultural, educational, artistic, youth and sports interchange and decided to this end to conclude in the near future a programme for the implementation of the cultural and scientific cooperation agreement.

An aide-memoire was signed during the visit specifying the objectives of economic, technical, trade and cultural cooperation the realization of which is being examined by both sides.

An agreement on civilian air transport was also signed and it has been agreed that an agreement on the abolition of visas for people travelling on official business, privately or as tourists should be negotiated and concluded.

State Council President Nicolae Ceaușescu of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and President Jean Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic have declared that the establishment of a climate of trust and cooperation in the world claims inter-state relations based on the principles of observance of national sovereignty and independence, equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage, as well as ensuring to each people its right to deciding its own destinies.

The two presidents declared themselves in support of refraining from the use of and threat with force, and from pressures of any kind in inter-state relationships, for the peaceful solving of litigious problems, for intensified efforts with a view to establishing a climate of peace in the world. They singled out with satisfaction the growing role of the small and medium-sized countries in international life and appreciated that on every state, whatever the number of its population, the size of its territory, and its economic or military potential, the responsibility is incumbent of actively participating in the settlement of the major issues preoccupying mankind.

Assessing highly the profoundly renewing changes taking place on the African continent, the two sides reasserted their solidarity with and support for the struggle waged by the young states for defending and consolidating national independence, against imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism, for economic, social and cultural progress. They stressed the importance of each state to rely on its own forces and to expand international cooperation on an equitable basis, for a full and efficient use of the material and human resources they have at hand to the advantage of their own peoples.

The two sides stressed the special importance the reduction and ultimately the doing away completely with the gap between the developing and the advanced countries have for the progress of mankind for the ensuring of peace and for the expansion of international cooperation. The two sides declared themselves for the necessity to eliminating the discriminatory practices from the economic relations between states and for a heightened contribution of the United Nations Organization to supporting the economic and social progress of the developing countries.

The two presidents reasserted their countries' solidarity with and support of the righteous struggle waged by the

peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and other dependent territories, for doing away with colonial oppression , for winning national independence and the attainment of their legitimate aspirations for freedom and progress. They condemned the racial discrimination and apartheid policies promoted by the racialist minority regimes in the South Africa Republic and Rhodesia. They condemned the lawless and abusive action of the Salisbury authorities aimed at perpetuating the colonial oppression of the Zimbabwe people and declared that the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Central African Republic do not recognize the so-called Republic of Rhodesia.

The two heads of state spoke out for the abolition of colonialism and appreciated that concrete actions should be undertaken urgently by the United Nations Organization for an undelayed implementation of its Declaration and resolutions on decolonization.

The two presidents expressed their profound anxiety in connection with the persistence of hotbeds of tension and of armed conflicts in various parts of the world, that endanger world peace. In this context, they expressed their full solidarity with the heroic struggle waged by the peoples of Indochina in defence of national independence and sovereignty, against the aggression of the United States of America and its allies, and declared that in order to ensure peace in that region of the world it is imperative that the troops of the USA and of its allies be withdrawn, so that the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian peoples be allowed to decide their fates by themselves in keeping with their own aspirations and without outside interference.

In connection with the situation in the Near East, the two heads of state declared themselves for the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the occupied territories, for securing the right to existence to all states in that region, for the settlement of the problem of the Palestine

population in keeping with its legitimate interests, for the settlement of all the other problems in that area by peaceful means, in the spirit of the Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967.

During the exchange of views on the situation in Europe, the two presidents appreciated that the achievement of European security - a major concern of the peoples on this continent - is an important factor apt to favourably influence international peace and cooperation.

The two sides stressed the necessity that concrete steps be undertaken so that an agreement should be reached on general disarmament and first of all on nuclear disarmament. They appreciated that curbing the arms race, banning the use of nuclear weapons and ultimately liquidating all existing stock-piles, dismantling foreign military bases and withdrawing the foreign troops from the territories of other countries are actions apt to contribute to the establishment of a climate of trust among states, congenial for the realization of world peace.

The carrying through of such measures would allow for the important human and material resources, being wasted at present for arming, to be devoted to peaceful work meant for the economic and social advancement of each nation, in keeping with its interests and aspirations. Some of these resources could be assigned to the states which have embarked upon the road of development.

Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Jean Bedel Bokassa, President of the Central African Republic, declared that a heightened efficiency, role and prestige of the UNO necessitates strict observance of the principles laid down in the United Nations Charter, the one of universality included, as well as an intensification of the activity of the Organization, by the contribution of all states, along the line of realizing peace, guaranteeing security and expanding international cooperation.

The two heads of state highlighted the importance of inter-state contacts at all levels appreciating that the Romanian visit by President Jean Bedel Bokassa was a contribution to better mutual acquaintance and understanding, to the development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and peoples.

President Jean Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic warmly thanked for the cordial reception and the hospitality extended to him by the State Council President Nicolae Ceaușescu, by the Romanian Government and people.

President Jean Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic has invited Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and his wife Elena Ceaușescu, to pay an official visit to the Central African Republic. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Bucharest, July 15, 1970

Nicolae Ceaușescu,
President od the State Council
of the Socialist Republic of
Romania

General Jean Bedel Bokka
President of the
Central African Republic

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